Aids in Problem Solving

1. Look for a pattern.

2. Make a table or chart.

3. Draw a picture.

4. Guess, check, and revise.

5. Try a simpler version of the same problem.

6. Use logical reasoning.

7. Use a variable.

8. Work backwards.

George Polya’s Guide to Problem Solving

To solve a problem is to find a way where no way is known offhand, to find a way out of difficulty, to find a way out around an obstacle, to attain a desired and that is not immediately attainable, by appropriate means. - George Polya

1. Understand the problem.

2. Devise a plan.

3. Carry out the plan.

4. Look back.